First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

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No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

May 17, 2015 10:00 am

Seventh Sunday of Easter

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Shout the Name of Christ Who Lives"** **234 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Tad Wysor

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Tad Wysor

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Hymn** **"O Christ Jesus, Sent From Heaven"** **47 NCH**

Focusing Prayer (Unison) Tad Wysor

We come together, expecting good things. We wait for the promises of God. In God's time the Holy Spirit will come. Each of us will be empowered to be faithful witnesses. We are here to learn about what Jesus did. We are ready to listen to all Jesus taught. Sing praises to God. Sing praises! Amen!

Solo **"**Take my life, and let it be Consecrated**"** Tiffanie Waldron

LISTENING FOR GOD

New Testament Readings Psalms 1 Tad Wysor

Hymn **"Jesus Loves Me"** **327 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward* Carol Hall

Old Testament Reading Acts 1:15-17; 21-26 Carol Hall

Reflection "Sacred" Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Drops of Water"** **60 ES**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

From the Aramaic

O cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration.
Soften the ground of our being
and carve out a space within us
where your Presence can abide.
Fill us with your creativity
so that we may be empowered to bear the fruit of your mission.
Let each of our actions
bear fruit in accordance with our desire,
endow us with the wisdom
to produce and share what each being
needs to grow and flourish.
Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us,
as we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes.
Do not let us be seduced by
that which would divert us from our true purpose,
but illuminate the opportunities of the present moment.
For you are the ground and the fruitful vision,
the birth, power and fulfillment,
as all is gathered and made whole once again. Amen.

Some early Christian groups sought to maintain Aramaic, the language of Jesus. As early as Constantine, translations of the Lord's Prayer and other scripture appeared. You can find information at the following website: *www.thenazareneway.com/lords_prayer.htm*

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) — Tad Wysor

We are called as witnesses to God's love for us in Jesus Christ. Our glorious inheritance is meant to be shared with brothers and sisters in our community and throughout the world. May our generous gifts praise God and give radiant testimony to the faith we share. Amen. - "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory — Steve McGhee

*Doxology — "Take My Gifts" — 562 NCH

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication** ***(Unison) Tad Wysor

May our offerings leave no doubt of our commitment. Please empower our ministries with the fullness of Christ that we may be inclusive in our outreach and effective as teachers and healers. Help us to find joy in our praying and in our serving. For these purposes and to the glory of your Son, Jesus Christ, we dedicate this money and our lives. Amen. - "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Go On Dreaming"** **65 ES**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

One: Return to your homes with great joy.
Look around you to see how God is blessing you.

Many: God has opened our minds to understand the scriptures.
We are surrounded with evidence of God's care.
We have been baptized by the Holy Spirit.
We are empowered to be Christ's disciples.
God is with us when we are together and when we part.
Amen. Amen. And ….Amen.

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Our Volunteers	Today: May 17th	Next Sunday: May 24th
Usher	Jamie Goldsmith	Marty Kleino
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Tad Wysor	Wayne Burling
Worship Set-up	Donna Eyster	Margaret Harner
Acolyte	Hunter/Desayre	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Barb Garland	Glenda Horvath
Sunday School	Tad Wysor	Anne Marie N-T

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choir rehearsals are held on Tuesday at 6:30 PM Come, join the fun and try it out. We have a great time. Don't need to read music or have trained voice.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address': Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.
See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.